

12. (Three Times Amended) The retroviral vector according to claim 10,
comprising at least:

- D²
- (a) a retroviral 5' LTR,
 - (b) an encapsidation region,
 - (c) a first gene of interest,
 - (d) an IRES site,
 - (e) a second gene of interest, and
 - (f) a retroviral 3' LTR,

at least one of the encapsidation region and the IRES site consisting of said nucleotide sequence.

D³

14. (Twice Amended) The retroviral vector according to claim 12, in which the encapsidation region is derived from a murine retrovirus, or from a VL30-type retrotransposon and the IRES site comprises a nucleotide sequence which is identical to the sequence presented in the sequence identifier SEQ ID NO: 2 or to the DNA equivalent of said sequence:

- (i) starting at nucleotide 1 and ending at nucleotide 578,
- (ii) starting at nucleotide 265 and ending at nucleotide 578, or
- (iii) starting at nucleotide 452 and ending at nucleotide 578.

D⁴

16. (Twice Amended) The retroviral vector according to claim 10, comprising a retroviral 5' LTR derived from an REV virus, a retroviral 3' LTR of any origin, one or

D⁴
more genes of interest, and a nucleotide sequence which is identical to the sequence presented in the sequence identifier SEQ ID NO: 2 or to the DNA equivalent of said sequence starting at nucleotide 1 and ending at nucleotide 578.

D⁵
19. (Three Times Amended) An isolated cell comprising a vector or infected with a viral particle generated from a viral vector according to claim 8.

D⁶
25. (Amended) A method for providing an internal ribosome entry site (IRES) to a vector for the transfer and expression of one or more genes of interest, comprising the step of introducing into said vector a nucleotide sequence isolated from the 5' end of the genomic RNA of a reticuloendotheliosis virus (REV) or from the DNA equivalent of said genomic RNA, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises all or part of the region of said 5' end which extends from the site of initiation of transcription up to the initiation codon of the gag gene.

D⁷
28. (Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises at least 100 nucleotides and at most 800 nucleotides identical to the sequence presented in the sequence identifier SEQ ID NO:1 or to the DNA equivalent of said sequence.

D 7
29. (Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein said nucleotide sequence is identical to the sequence presented in the sequence identifier SEQ ID NO:2 or to the DNA equivalent of said sequence:

- (i) starting at nucleotide 1 and ending at nucleotide 578,
- (ii) starting at nucleotide 265 and ending at nucleotide 578, or
- (iii) starting at nucleotide 452 and ending at nucleotide 578.

D 8
31. (Amended) A method of allowing or activating the encapsidation of a retrovirus or of a retroviral vector, comprising the step of introducing into said retrovirus or retroviral vector, a nucleotide sequence isolated from the 5' end of the genomic RNA of a reticuloendotheliosis virus (REV) or from the DNA equivalent of said genomic RNA, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises all or part of the region of said 5' end which extends from the site of initiation of transcription up to the initiation codon of the gag gene.

D 9
34. (Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises at least 100 nucleotides and at most 800 nucleotides identical to the sequence presented in the sequence identifier SEQ ID NO:1 or to the DNA equivalent of said sequence.

35. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein said nucleotide sequence is identical to the sequence presented in the sequence identifier SEQ ID NO:2 or to the DNA equivalent of said sequence:

- D 9
- (i) starting at nucleotide 1 and ending at nucleotide 578,
 - (ii) starting at nucleotide 265 and ending at nucleotide 578, or
 - (iii) starting at nucleotide 452 and ending at nucleotide 578.
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D 10

38. (Amended) A method for the preparation of one or more polypeptides of interest by recombination techniques, comprising the step of culturing in vitro a cell comprising a vector according to claim 8 and harvesting said polypeptide(s) from the supernatant or from the cell culture.

D 11

40. (Amended) An in vitro method for expressing one or more genes of interest into pluripotent cells, comprising the step of transfecting or infecting said pluripotent cells with a vector or a viral particle generated from a viral vector according to claim 8 or a pharmaceutical composition prepared from said vector or viral particle.

D 12

44. (Amended) The vector of claim 43, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises at least 100 nucleotides and at most 800 nucleotides identical to the sequence presented in the sequence identifier SEQ ID NO:1 or to the DNA equivalent of said sequence.

45. (Amended) The vector of claim 44, wherein said nucleotide sequence is identical to the sequence presented in the sequence identifier SEQ ID NO:2 or to the DNA equivalent of said sequence:

- D 12
- (i) starting at nucleotide 1 and ending at nucleotide 578,
 - (ii) starting at nucleotide 265 and ending at nucleotide 578, or
 - (iii) starting at nucleotide 452 and ending at nucleotide 578.
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48. (Amended) The retroviral vector according to claim 10, wherein said vector comprises:

- a) a retroviral 5' LTR,
- b) an encapsidation region,
- c) a first gene of interest,
- d) an internal promoter region of a different origin from that of said retroviral 5' LTR,
- e) a second gene of interest,
- f) an IRES site,
- g) a third gene of interest, and
- h) a retroviral 3' LTR,

D 13

at least one of the encapsidation region and the IRES site consists of said nucleotide sequence.

D 14

50. (Amended) The retroviral vector according to claim 16, comprising a retroviral 5' LTR derived from a REV virus, a retroviral 3' LTR of any origin, one or more genes of interest, and a nucleotide sequence which is identical to the sequence

D¹⁴

presented in the sequence identifier SEQ ID NO:2 or to the DNA equivalent of said sequence, starting at nucleotide 265 and ending at nucleotide 578 as encapsidation region.

Kindly add new claim 51.

D¹⁵

51. A method for the preparation of one or more polypeptides of interest by recombination techniques, comprising the step of culturing in vitro a cell infected with a viral particle according to claim 18 and harvesting said polypeptide(s) from the supernatant or from the cell culture.
